

# Planning and Development (Environmental Significance Opinion - Block 7 Cotter River – Fuel Tanks Demolition and Replacement at AirServices Australia Facility) Notice 2014 (No 1)

**Notifiable Instrument NI2014–246**

Made under the

**Planning and Development Act 2007 s 138AD (Requirements in relation to environmental significance opinions)**

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## **1 Name of instrument**

This instrument is the *Planning and Development (Environmental Significance Opinion - Block 7 Cotter River – Fuel Tanks Demolition and Replacement at AirServices Australia Facility) Notice 2014 (No 1)*.

## **2 Commencement**

This instrument commences on the day after notification.

## **3 Environmental Significance Opinion**

An Environmental Significance Opinion has been prepared by the Conservator of Flora and Fauna.

The text of the opinion is shown at Annexure A.

A copy of the opinion may be obtained from ACTPLA's website:

[http://www.actpla.act.gov.au/topics/design\\_build/da\\_assessment/environmental\\_significance\\_opinions](http://www.actpla.act.gov.au/topics/design_build/da_assessment/environmental_significance_opinions)

## **4 Completion**

The environmental significance opinion and the notice including the text of the opinion expire 18 months after the day the notice is notified.

Dorte Ekelund

Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate

31 May 2014



**ACT**  
Government

Environment and  
Sustainable Development

Ms Dorte Ekelund  
Chief Planning Executive  
ACT Planning and Land Authority  
Dame Pattie Menzies Building  
DICKSON ACT 2602

Dear Ms Ekelund

This is to advise of my decision, under s.138AB(4) of the *Planning and Development Act 2007*, on the request for an environmental significance opinion for the demolition and replacement of the fuel tanks at the AirServices Australia Mt Ginini facility that is located within Namadgi National Park.

The proposal is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact provided that all works are completed in accordance with the conditions as imposed.

Please find attached the Environmental Significance Opinion and a Statement of Reasons for the decision.

Yours sincerely

Ann Lyons Wright  
Conservator of Flora and Fauna

23 May 2014

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OPINION**

In accordance with section 138AB(4) of the *Planning and Development Act 2007*, I provide the following environmental significance opinion:

### **PROPONENT**

David Moore, Director, Moore Management Pty Ltd for and on behalf of AirServices Australia.

### **LOCATION**

Mt Ginini AirServices Australia facility, Block 7 District of Cotter River.

### **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL**

The proposed development is for the demolition of the existing 2 x 21,000 litre single skinned diesel fuel storage tanks and the installation of 2 x 21,000 litre secondary contained cathodically protected carbon steel underground fuel tanks, and associated piping.

The proponent wants the application for the development approval assessed for an environmental significance opinion on the grounds that the proposal is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact, and has applied to the Conservator of Flora and Fauna to that effect.

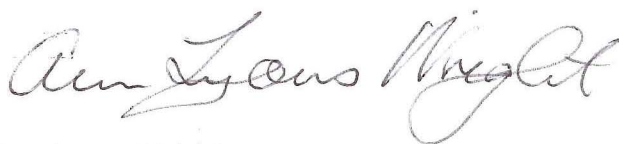
### **OPINION**

The proposal is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact provided works are in accordance with the following conditions:

- All works to be in accordance with the Mitigation Measures as provided in the Report titled: Environmental Significance Opinion Report AirServices Australia – Mt Ginini Facility Block 7 District of Cotter River Diesel Fuel Tank Replacement Document No 13833-355 (Moore Management) for the construction and rehabilitation phase.
- A mandatory site meeting is to be held with all key stakeholders on project commencement and finalisation.
- A copy of the regular environmental management reports for the site to be forwarded to the Bendora Ranger, Murrumbidgee River Corridor Office.

- Access to the site will not involve any road works or trimming or felling of vegetation, unless previously approved by the Parks and Conservation Service.

Attached is a Statement of Reasons for the decision.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ann Lyons Wright', written in a cursive style.

Ann Lyons Wright  
Conservator of Flora and Fauna

23 May 2014

## STATEMENT OF REASONS REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The proposed development is a proposal mentioned in Schedule 4 of the *Planning and Development Act 2007* – Development proposal for an activity requiring an EIS Schedule 4. The development proposal is mentioned in Schedule 4, Part 4.3, item 3, being development on land reserved under s. 315 for the purpose of a wilderness area, national park, nature reserve or special purpose reserve.

The proposed works are within Namadgi National Park.

The proponent wants the application for the development approval assessed in the merit track on the grounds that the proposal is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact and has applied to the Conservator of Flora and Fauna for an environmental significance opinion (ESO) to that effect.

### Meaning of *significant* adverse environmental impact

An adverse environmental impact is *significant* if—

- (a) the environmental function, system, value or entity that might be adversely impacted by a proposed development is significant; or
- (b) the cumulative or incremental effect of a proposed development might contribute to a substantial adverse impact on an environmental function, system, value or entity.

In deciding whether an adverse environmental impact is *significant*, the following matters must be taken into account:

- (a) the kind, size, frequency, intensity, scope and length of time of the impact;
- (b) the sensitivity, resilience and rarity of the environmental function, system, value or entity likely to be affected.

In deciding whether a development proposal is likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact it does not matter whether the adverse environmental impact is likely to occur on the site of the development or elsewhere.

It has been determined that the proposal is unlikely to have a significant environmental impact, based on the documentation submitted and known values of the site.

### Project description

Demolition and removal of the existing single skinned diesel fuel storage tanks and installation of new fuel tanks and associated works at the AirServices Australia facility on Mt Ginini. The works are required to ensure the integrity of the on-site fuel



storage. The existing tanks do not comply with current regulations or best practice and must be replaced to reduce the risk of leakage into the surrounding area. Works will include:

- Removal of the existing 2 x 21,000 litre semi buried carbon steel single skinned tanks ( age approx 30+ years);
- Excavation of the existing tank backfill materials;
- Soil testing and validation of the existing tank backfill material and also the excavation area;
- Installation of 2 x 21,000 litre secondary contained cathodically protected carbon steel underground fuel tanks meeting 2014 standards and regulations;
- Installation of tank pit monitoring wells to allow ongoing testing of groundwater conditions;
- Installation of new stainless steel fuel transfer piping housed within a concrete culvert to transfer fuel from the bulk fuel storage and the generators storage tanks (being new 2 x 500 litre stainless steel day tanks);
- Provision of electrical and mechanical failsafe interlocks (i.e. fail to a safe condition) to prevent overfills of fuel or other mechanically related spills of fuels.

#### **Documentation Submitted.**

- Report titled: Environmental Significance Opinion Report AirServices Australia – Mt Ginini Facility Block 7 District of Cotter River Diesel Fuel Tank Replacement Document No 13833-355 (Moore Management);
- Flora and Fauna Assessment, National Underground Fuel Tank Replacement Project – Mt Ginini (ecological Australia);
- Referral Decision – not controlled action – under the provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*; and
- Associated drawings.

#### **Natural conservation values present**

While the broader area of Namadgi National Park has very high natural conservation values, the site of the proposed works has been highly disturbed by the construction and operation of the facility. All works that may cause disturbance are within the facilities compound that contains large areas of hardstand paving. The works will not involve any further clearing.

### **Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts**

All works are restricted to the cleared site and no vegetation is to be removed.

During the construction period a number of heavy vehicle movements will occur, including removal of the existing tank from the site, new tank delivery, excavated materials removal to the existing ACTEW Cotter Dam gravel stockpiles, import of clean tank backfill materials from the Cotter Dam gravel stockpiles, concrete and other building materials delivery and other miscellaneous transport activities.

The existing road is capable of handling the truck movements and it is proposed for construction to be commenced after the winter snow period and completed prior to the bushfire season. This will reduce the likely impacts of an unforeseen event occurring with the access to the site of large vehicles.

Failure to replace the tanks with tanks that comply with current regulations and best practice is more likely to cause a catastrophic event as failure of the skin of the existing tank would allow diesel to leak into the groundwater at the top of the catchment.

The new tanks are to be underground at the insistent of both the Emergency Services Authority and Parks and Conservation Service to reduce any potential risks from events such as wildfire or vandalism.

It has been determined that the potential for a significant environmental impact is low provided all works are in accordance with the conditions as proposed.